

Practice

A. Choose the correct answer.

The following text is for questions 1 to 3.

Why Lizards Can't Sit

Back in the old days, Brer Lizard was an awful lot like Brer Frog, meaning he could sit upright like a dog. Things were like this for quite a spell. Then one day when they were walking down the road by their swamp, Brer Lizard and Brer Frog spotted some real nice pasture land with a great big pond that was on the far side of a great big fence. Ooo did that land look good. Looked like a great place for Brer Lizard to catch insects and other good food. And Brer Frog wanted a swim in that big old pool.

Well, Brer Lizard and Brer Frog sat beside that tall fence with their bottoms on the ground and their front ends propped up, 'cause Brer Lizard could still sit upright then jest like a dog, and they tried to figure out how to get through the fence. Suddenly, Brer Frog saw a narrow crack, low to the ground. "I'm going that squeeze through that crack over there," he croaked. "Lawd, help me through!" And Brer Frog hopped over and pushed and squeezed and struggled and prayed his way through that tiny crack until he popped out on the other side.

"Come on Lizard," Brer Frog called through the crack.

"I'm a-comin'!" Brer Lizard called back. "I'm a-goin' to squeeze through this here crack, Lawd willin' or not!"

Brer Lizard scurried over to the crack in the fence and he pushed and squeezed and struggled and cursed. Suddenly, a rail fell down and mashed him flat! After that, Brer Lizard couldn't sit upright no more. And he never did get through that fence to eat them insects, neither!

Source: <http://americanfolklore.net>

1. What did Brer Lizard and Brer Frog find?
 - A. A great lake
 - B. Some real nice pasture land
 - C. Their swamp
 - D. Big old pool
2. What did Brer Lizard and Brer Frog try to do?
 - A. They try to to get through the fence.
 - B. Their front ends propped up.
 - C. They sat beside the fence.
 - D. They saw a narrow crack.
3. "Brer Lizard scurried over to the crack in the fence and he pushed and squeezed and struggled and cursed."
What is the synonym of the underlined word?
 - A. Try hard
 - B. Try more
 - C. Try again
 - D. Try one more time

The Fisherman and the Bear

One fine day, an old Maine man was fishing on his favorite lake but he caught nothing. Finally, he gave up and walked back along the shore to his fishing shack. When he got close to the front door, he saw it was open. Being of a suspicious nature, he walked to the door quietly and looked inside. There was a big black bear. It was just pulling the cork out of his molasses jug with its teeth. The molasses spilled all over the floor and the bear rubbed his paw in it, smearing it all over.

The bear ran to the lake shore. Standing on its hind legs, it held up the paw full of molasses. Soon all the flies and bugs and mosquitoes were swarming all over the sticky sweet paw. Every time a fish jumped after his paw, the bear cuffed it ashore. Soon it had a large pile.

Finally, the bear decided he had enough fish and waded to shore. The bear had caught a mess of fish any fisherman would envy. The bear paused in his eating, and looked over to the bushes where the old man was hidden. The bear stood up and laid the remaining fish in a row. Then it walked away up the shore. It kept looking back at the bushes where the old man stood.

The old man crept out of the bushes and down to the shore. Sure enough, the bear had left six large trout for him. He looked over at the bear. It was standing at the edge of the wood watching. "Thanks a lot," the old man called to the bear. The bear waved the now-clean paw at the old man and disappeared into the thicket. "Well," said the old man, "That's the first time a bear has ever paid me for my molasses."

Source: <http://americanfolklore.net>

4. What did the man do on his favorite lake?
 - A. Fish
 - B. Fishes
 - C. Fishing
 - D. Taking fish
5. "... it held up the paw full of molasses."
The underlined word refers to _____.
 - A. the leg
 - B. the lake
 - C. the bear
 - D. the shore
6. What had the bear left for the man?
 - A. A trout
 - B. A large trout
 - C. Six large trout
 - D. A lot of large trout

The following text is for questions 7 to 9.

Mississippi Mosquitoes

A visitor to Mississippi decided to take a walk along the river in the cool of the evening. His host warned him that the mosquitoes in the area had been acting up lately, tormenting the alligators until they moved down the river. But the visitor just laughed and told his host he wasn't to be put off from his evening constitutional by a few mosquitoes.

As he promenaded beside the flowing Mississippi, he heard the whirling sound of a tornado. Looking up, he saw two mosquitoes descend upon him. They lifted him straight up in the air and carried him out over the river.

"Shall we eat him on the bank or in the swamp?" he heard one ask the other.

"We'd better eat him on the bank," said the other. "Or else the big mosquitoes in the swamp will take him away from us."

Frightened near to death, the man lashed out at the mosquitoes until they lost their grip and dropped him into the river. He was carried two miles downstream before he was fished out by a riverboat pilot. The man left Mississippi the next day, and has never gone for another walk from that day to this.

Source: <http://americanfolklore.net>

7. What did the visitor do in the evening?
 - A. He visited Mississippi.
 - B. He searched for mosquitoes.
 - C. He moved down the river.
 - D. He walked along the river.
8. What did the man see above him in the river?
 - A. A mosquito
 - B. Mississippi river
 - C. Whirling sound
 - D. Two mosquitoes
9. What did the man do to the mosquitoes to free himself?
 - A. He was frightened near to death.
 - B. He dropped himself into the river.
 - C. He was carried two miles downstream.
 - D. He lashed out at the mosquitoes until they lost their grip.

The following text is for questions 10 to 12.

Malin Kundang

A long time ago, in a small village near the beach in West Sumatra, lived a woman and her son, Malin Kundang. Malin Kundang's father had passed away when he was a baby, and he had to live hard with his mother. Malin Kundang was a healthy, diligent, and strong child. He usually went to the sea to catch fish, and brought it to his mother, or sold it in the town.

One day, when Malin Kundang was sailing as usual, he saw a merchant's ship which was being raided by a small band of pirates. With his brave and power, Malin Kundang defeated the pirates. The merchant was so happy and asked Malin Kundang to sail with him. Malin Kundang agreed.

Many years later, Malin Kundang became a wealthy merchant, with a huge ship, loads of trading goods, many ship crews, and a beautiful wife. In his journey, his ship landed on a beach. The villagers recognized him, and the news ran fast in the town: Malin Kundang became a rich man and now he is here. His mother, in deep-felt sadness after years of loneliness, ran to the beach to meet her beloved son again.

When the mother came, Malin Kundang, in front of his well dressed wife, his crews and his own gloriness, denied to meet that old, poor and dirty woman. For three times she begged Malin Kundang and for three times yelled at him. At last Malin Kundang said to her, "Enough, old woman! I have never had a mother like you, a dirty and ugly peasant!" Then he ordered his crews to set sail.

Enraged, she cursed Malin Kundang that he would turn into a stone if he didn't apologize. Malin Kundang just laughed and set sail. In the quiet sea, suddenly a thunderstorm came. His huge ship was wrecked and it was too late for Malin Kundang to apologize. He was thrown by the wave out of his ship, fell on a small island, and suddenly turned into stone.

Source: <http://urbanlegendsonline.com>

10. What are the characteristics of Malin Kundang?
- A. Healthy, wise and diligent.
 - B. Healthy, strong and diligent.
 - C. Healthy, wealth and diligent.
 - D. Healthy, creative and diligent.
11. Why did Malin Kundang leave his mother?
- A. Malin Kundang defeated the pirates.
 - B. Malin Kundang became a wealthy merchant.
 - C. Malin Kundang agreed to sail with the merchant.
 - D. Malin Kundang had a huge ship and a beautiful wife.
12. What is the message of the story?
- A. Don't curse.
 - B. Don't sail to the sea.
 - C. Don't hurt your parents.
 - D. Don't follow the merchant.

The following text is for questions 13 to 15.

Loro Jonggrang

Loro Jonggrang was a daughter of a giant king called Ratu Baka (King of Death), and she had a propose from a young noble, Bandung Bandawasa. He was handsome, wealth and powerful, but Loro Jonggrang didn't want to marry him.

Ratu Baka gave a task to Bandung Bandawasa. He had to make 1000 temples in one night, to prepare his marriage to Loro Jonggrang. Bandung Bandawasa used his supernatural force to call the genies, and they made the temples in unbelievable speed. Loro Jonggrang used the classical tactics to sweep away the genies: She ordered her servants to help her hit the rice punchers, and made the sound of cooking, so the genies thought morning had come and they ran away.

Bandung Bandawasa was so angry with her act. He already finished 999 temples and when he built the 1000th, he cursed Loro Jonggrang into it.

The largest temple in Prambanan complex is the Shiva temple, and inside the temple, there is a Durga (Goddess of Darkness, wife of Shiva, God of Destruction) believed as the body of Loro Jonggrang.

Source: <http://www.st.rim.or.jp>

13. Who had proposed to Loro Jonggrang?
- A. Bandung Bandawasa
 - B. Handsome Prince
 - C. King of Death
 - D. Ratu Baka

14. What did Bandung Bandawasa use to build a thousand temples?
- A. He used his muscle.
 - B. He ordered his servant.
 - C. He used a classical tactic.
 - D. He used his supernatural force to call the genies.
15. "He already finished 999 temples and when he built the 1000th..."
What is the synonym of the underlined word?
- A. Completed
 - B. Resolved
 - C. Decided
 - D. Expired

The following text is for questions 16 to 18.

Kyai Jegod

When Amangkurat IV, the grandfather of Sultan was the ruler of Mataram, he often meditated in a nearby forest, called Garjitawati. Legend told that one day, when a gardener was gathering grass for his cattle in the forest, he looked for some water because it was so hot. He found a small pond and when he was going to drink some water from it, a dragon came out of the underwater, but it was so friendly to him.

The dragon said that if Sultan wanted to build his palace, it was supposed to be located in that forest. Then it disappeared.

Then Sultan started to build the palace in the forest. He demanded strong and old woods from the forest where those woods lied was said to be home of genies and spirits. His lumberjacks couldn't find anything to eat and the only things they could have were some rice and water for three days, or sometimes they couldn't have anything.

Then Sultan ordered that the main pole in the palace's hall had to be built from special wood, which would give strong impression. One night, a servant who was sleeping in the forest heard loud and deep voice. The voice introduced itself as Kyai Jegod. The servant saw that Kyai Jegod was an old, tall, and massive tree. He said that he would voluntarily let himself be cut to make the main pole, so that he could stay inside it forever.

The servant told it to Sultan and Sultan let Kyai Jegod stay inside it forever, while Kyai Jegod became the protector of the palace since then.

Source: <http://www.st.rim.or.jp>

16. What did Amangkurat IV do in Garjitawati?
- A. He ruled.
 - B. He meditated.
 - C. He found a pond.
 - D. He looked for some water.
17. What did the Sultan demand to build his palace?
- A. Strong and old woods
 - B. Some rice and water
 - C. Genies and spirits
 - D. Lumberjacks

18. What kind of figure was Kyai Jegod?

- A. A wise old man.
- B. A Sultan's family.
- C. A protector of king.
- D. Old, tall and massive tree.

The following text is for questions 19 - 20.

The Wind and the Moon

Once upon a time, there lived two friends in the shade of a rock. It would sound strange, but one of them was a lion and the other was a tiger. They were friends since their childhood.

Moreover, the part of the mountain under which they lived was peaceful; it could be due to the presence of a monk who lived under the same rock. He was a hermit, one who lives far away from worldly affairs. One day, the two friends got into a stupid argument for some unknown reason. The Tiger said, "Everyone knows that cold comes when the moon decreases from full to new." The Lion said, "You are a stupid fellow. From where did you hear such nonsense? Everyone knows that cold comes when the moon increases from new to full."

Both of them went together to the peaceful monk and bowed respectfully before him. The hermit asked them the reason for their sudden arrival. They put their question to him and said, "Sir, only you can answer to this problematic question." The hermit thought for a while and said, "It can be cold in any phase of the moon, from new to full and back to new again. It is the wind that brings the cold, whether from west or north or east. Therefore, both of you are right and neither of you is defeated by the other."

The hermit also said, "Both of you share healthy friendship since your childhood. It is not good to get into arguments and think about separation. The most important thing is to live without conflict, to remain united. Unity is best by all means." The Lion and the Tiger understood the message of the wise monk. They thanked him for the kind suggestion given by him. Both of them lived happily thereafter as good friends.

Source: <http://www.culturalindia.net>

19. Besides a lion and a tiger, who lived in the mountain?

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| A. Rock | C. The wind |
| B. Hermit | D. Strange people |

20. What did the Lion and the Tiger argue about?

- A. When the moon decreases
- B. When the moon is full
- C. When the cold comes
- D. Hermit's argument